



WHAT IS Dominick "Spike" Mazza praying for. If he were praying for Charger win Saturday, it worked. With him are Joe Mazza, left, and Ben Jackson, right. See story on page 6. (MIRROR photo by Ros-AI)

Eyewitness account of accident

Terrifying hornblowing foretells of accident

Kay Shaffer was standing looking out an upstairs window, and her husband, Oliver, a Carbondale funeral director, was seated at his desk, talking on the telephone. They were in the apartment they share located over their funeral home, at 94 N. Main Street in Carbondale.

It was exactly 2:30 last Thursday afternoon. It was then that Kay Shaffer heard the sound...the ominous, terrifying hornblowing of a runaway truck careening down Canaan Street.

She had heard it before...one Friday evening a month or so ago, when a tandem dump truck swerved down the dangerous incline.

"Hang up quickly," she urged her husband, "it's a runaway truck. Call the police!" Oliver Shaffer immediately telephoned Carbondale police, and from her window Kay Shaffer watched as the big rig rolled into view, out of control.

"I gave a lot of credit to that driver, the way he maneuvered that truck," Mrs. Shaffer told the MIRROR. "He could have wiped out a bunch of lives."

As the huge truck barreled toward the foot of Canaan Street and the sharp curve at the bottom where it joins North Church, Kay Shaffer could see the driver's face, turning to the right and left, trying to decide which way to steer the rig so that it would do the least amount of damage. There was traf-

fic at the light in front of Zazera's Market, which he would surely hit.

As he hit the curve, he deliberately jackedknifed the big truck so that it came to rest across the intersection of North Main and North Church, a yard or two from the structure at that corner, the old Chellino building.

After calling police, who dispatched fire and ambulance personnel, the Shaffers rushed into the street to see if they could offer help.

Mrs. Shaffer told the MIRROR that Dr. Louis Latimer, a chiropractor who maintains offices across the street from the funeral home, hurried to the scene and stayed with one of the victims as the ambulance arrived.

"It was terrible to see and hear," Mrs. Shaffer commented on Friday. "Although we're out of the way, on the second and third floors, we see so many dangers here."

The Shaffers, like many Carbondaleans who gathered at the scene on Thursday afternoon, wonder what might have happened had the big rig plunged down the hill out of control an hour or even a half hour later, when school buses loaded with home-ward bound children might have been in the area.

They wonder, too, what would have happened had not the driver, while he was pounding his horn to sound a warning and trying desperately to control the runaway

vehicle, had the presence of mind and the experience to flip the rig over.

A catastrophe could have occurred with great loss of life. The Shaffers wonder why an off ramp for runaway trucks could not be constructed somewhere near where Belmont Street intersects with Canaan, or behind Smith's gas station.

They also wonder why some kind of police alarm to the factories in Carbondale cannot be implemented, to warn workers on their way home to avoid certain intersections obstructed by accidents such as the one last Thursday.

At the time of that accident, one woman who lived on Canaan Street remarked, "I will carry the sound of their screams ringing in my ears with me the rest of my life."

See related story and photograph on page 3.

By NAN WATERS

Always a bridesmaid and never a bride! For all practical purposes, Carbondale City Council President James V. McMyne (pronounced McMin), who is expected to become mayor of the Pioneer City within the next month, should feel that way.

He should. This will be the second time McMyne, a Democrat, has assumed the majority of the city under the Home Rule Charter of 1977. The first time was for 10 months when Mayor A.J. Kaufmann, M.D., died.

Now that Mayor Fred J. Mancuso has verified to the MIRROR that he will quit, with an announcement in the press, scheduled for late November, Jim McMyne again faces the prospect of becoming the city's chief executive.

And what happens when Mancuso's unexpired term ends in 1987? The MIRROR asked McMyne in an informal prearranged interview over coffee in a local restaurant.

"I'll run for Mayor," McMyne says simply. "I don't think we can afford so many changes as such a short time." And what does he see ahead for the City of Carbondale? What does he plan to do when he becomes mayor?

Stability needed

"I don't like to make any promises I can't keep. My first priority will be to get some stability into all departments of city government, particularly financial stability."

Mayor Mancuso, a Republican, is resigning, as he told the MIRROR last week, for "personal reasons...to spend more time with my family." In addition to holding down his \$1,000 per annum city post, he teaches >gynecology at Penn State's Wor-

thington Scranton campus, is a consulting engineer, and city businessman.

McMyne, on the other hand, retired three years ago after working for 32 years for Blackstone Cigar Company, and Parco Investment Services.

In his statement to the MIRROR regarding his forthcoming resignation, Mancuso made no reference to his frequent battles with Democratic members of City Council over alleged "robbery-Peter-to-pay-Paul" financial practices at City Hall.

No one, not even Councilwoman Charlotte Moro or Councilman Michael Toleno, his most frequent critics, have accused Mayor Mancuso of anything but alleged mismanagement.

McMyne doesn't wish to comment on Mancuso's imminent resignation or the reasons for it, but he does recall how demanding the mayor's job was when he held it before, at a time when he was also employed.

"There are just so many hours in a day," he commented.

And what changes in City Hall personnel does future Mayor McMyne anticipate?

"No comment," he replies firmly, sipping his coffee and smoking a cigar.

What is Carbondale's biggest problem, the MIRROR asked.

Apathy, Apathy

"Apathy. Apathy of the people." How about unemployment?

"Unemployment has always been a problem here. We have to have something more to offer industry coming in, but I don't want to promise anybody pie in the sky."

Will he raise the tax millage?

"No. There have to be other ways to raise money, although I don't want to make any definite statements now. I can't make campaign promises, political promises or grant political favors."

An indifferent politician from the start,

McMyne was asked to run for City Council

in 1977 under the Home Rule Charter, for a year. "I can do that standing up," he figured, and his political career began.

He was born at 59 McCabe Ave. on the city's east side, and lives at that address now with Carbondale's next first lady, the former Janet Baker, to whom he's been married almost 40 years. They've reared four sons and a daughter, and have five grandchildren.

McMyne was graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School in 1939, and served in the army six years including the infamous Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, when he was stationed at Pearl Harbor. In 1971 he suffered a heart attack, and seven years later had open heart surgery.

Today he's in excellent health, having given up cigarettes, but he still smokes a pipe and cigars.

He relaxes and exercises by playing nine holes of golf five times a week with a group of 12 retired friends, and "we walk, we don't use a cart." He admits to playing in the low 80's.

He and his wife had planned a Florida vacation... "the first we've ever had together," he waxes, but his upcoming mayoral role will probably change those plans.

He hopes to surround himself with competent people, and is strong on "civility in government. I can't stand it when I hear an employee who is actually working for the public pick up a phone and answer, 'Yeah?'"

And will the new mayor plan regularly scheduled press conferences, the MIRROR asked, as our interview came to a close.

I hope so, if I have anything to say. If I don't like what you write about me, I'll tell you."

With his youthful, athletic appearance, and authoritarian mien, we doubt if any of Carbondale's city hall reporters will ever refer to Jim McMyne as "the old grey mayor."

We know we won't.



WINNERS OF Carbondale Area Band and Marching Units Parents Association-sponsored Halloween Parade Sunday afternoon pose for photograph. In front, from left, are Kelly O'Neill, Kara Mihal, Jerry Usher, Nichelle Pavalone, Danny Rumford. Second row, same order, are Tracy Ward, Melissa Ward, Matthew Balsavage. Third row, usual order, Donny Rumford, Megan Fryle, Leah Fota, Penny Pavalone, Paula Pavalone. Fourth row, Jerome Maida, Matthew Maida, Vikki Moran, Colette Connor. Judges were: Sister Charlotte, CJC, principal, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; Sister Ann McLaughlin, coordinator, St. Rose Elementary; Dominick Famularo, principal, Roosevelt Elementary; Paul Kazmarok, vice principal, Carbondale Area; Judith Calabro, superintendent of schools. (MIRROR photo by Ros-AI)

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